

means for connecting the telephone call to an identified called party at a second telephone having a particular calling status;

means for determining the busy/idle status of the second telephone, said determining means checking the busy/idle status of the second telephone at predetermined intervals; [and]

Q2
(one)
means for playing at least one generally continuous announcement to the calling party for a predetermined period of time during a time period when an audible call progress signal would have been produced, said playing means acting independently of the particular called party; and

means for immediately completing the call to the called party when the called party answers the second telephone.

In claim 2, line 2, please substitute --ringback-- for "ring".

In claim 3, line 2, please substitute --ringback-- for "ring".

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4. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, [wherein], further comprising selecting means for allowing said calling party [can participate in the selection of the] to select a type of announcement to be played.

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7. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said telephone network includes at the calling party location a video terminal [at said location of the first telephone] connected to the network and capable of receiving video messages transmitted through the network.